

since March, 1993 and hence the term 'devaluation' has lost its usefulness. However, the rupee has depreciated by 9.07% between 31.3.93 and 31.3.96 against the US dollar.

(b) and (c) External debt is incurred, denominated and serviced in terms of foreign currencies. Therefore the amount of debt in terms of foreign currencies remains unaffected by movements in the exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis foreign currencies.

Export-Import Bank of India

4434. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand for setting up of a bank branch of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim) at Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has reported that it has not received any request for setting up of Exim Bank's branch at Guwahati.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in Industrial Licences

4435. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of conversion of letter of intent into industrial licence and filling of industrial entrepreneurs memorandum have been declined during 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letter of intent and industrial entrepreneurs memorandum registered during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the position of industrial licences likely to be issued during 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The following table shows the number of conversion of letters of intent into Industrial Licences, Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued and the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) filed from 1994 to 1996 :

	1994	1995	1996
Conversion of letters of intent into Industrial Licences	125	83	90
Letters of Intent issued	546	355	522
IEMs filed	4664	6502	4825

(d) Letters of Intent are valid for a period of three years during which these need to be converted into Industrial Licence. It takes generally 4 to 5 years for an Industrial Project to fructify. However, the gestation period varies from Industry to Industry.

[Translation]

Export of Synthetic Yarn

4436. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of synthetic yarn from Maharashtra has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the said decline; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the export of synthetic yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) State-wise export statistics are not maintained. However, India's overall exports of synthetic and blended yarn have increased from Rs. 232 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 678 crores in 1995-96.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of textile items, including synthetic yarn, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Production of Coal

4437. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines under Coal India Ltd;

(b) the target fixed for production of coal in those